

### **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST**

**Project:** CVPIA Sacramento River Spawning Gravel Addition Project at Keswick Dam

**Date:** June 11, 2010

**Nature of Action:** Place approximately 5,500 tons of clean/washed spawning gravel in the Sacramento River at the Keswick Dam injection site between August 23 and September 10, 2010 (see attached figures 1-2).

**Exclusion category:** Bureau of Reclamation Categorical Exclusion - 516 DM 6 Appendix 9 C. Project Implementation Activities, 3. Minor construction activities associated with authorized projects which correct unsatisfactory environmental conditions or which merely augment or supplement, or are enclosed within existing facilities.

#### **Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion**

- |    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | This action or group of actions would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.               | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. | This action or group of actions would involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |

#### **Evaluation of Exceptions to Actions within Categorical Exclusion**

- |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 1. | This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety.  | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. | This action would have significant impacts on natural resources and unique geographic characteristics such as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wetlands, wild or scenic rivers, rivers placed on the nationwide river inventory, floodplains, national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; migratory birds; prime or unique farmlands; and other ecologically significant or critical areas. (Same as appendix 516-DM-2, appendix 2 part 2.2). | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. | This action will have highly controversial environmental effects.   | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |

- |     |   |  |
|-----|---|--|
| 4.  | This action will have highly uncertain or potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risk.  | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5.  | This action will establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.   | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6.  | This action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulative significant environmental effects.   | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7.  | This action will significantly affect on properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historical Places.   | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8.  | This action will significantly affect a species listed or proposed to be listed as endangered or threatened, or Critical Habitat for these species.   | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9.  | This action threatens to violate Federal, state, local, executive or Secretarial orders, or tribal law or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.   | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. | This action will affect Indian Trust Assets.  | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. | This action will limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.  | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. | This action will have a disproportionately high and adverse affect minority or low-income populations.  | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. | This action will contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth , or expansion of the range of such species. | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |

**NEPA Action-** Categorical Exclusion: x  
EA  
EIS

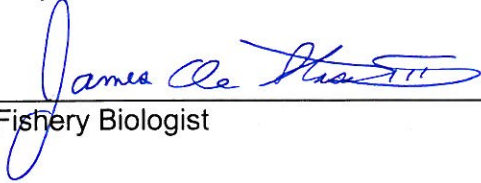
**Environmental commitments, explanation, and/or remarks:**

The proposed project will place approximately 5,500 tons of clean/washed spawning gravel into the Sacramento River at the Keswick Dam injection site (40° 36' 32.68" N, 122° 26' 47.53" W), between August 23, 2010 and September 10, 2010.

The proposed project is being conducted under Section 3406 (b)(13) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. This Section mandates spawning gravel additions to the upper Sacramento River to mitigate for impacts to anadromous fish habitat resulting from the construction Shasta and Keswick Dams. The proposed project will improve both the quantity and quality of spawning habitat for anadromous fish. No direct or indirect adverse impacts to the environment are expected. Since 1997, gravel injections at the Keswick Dam site have occurred seven times and this year's injection will be identical to all previous years. Gravel will be end-dumped from a 100-foot high terrace with gravel remaining on the terrace/cliff face until mobilized by high winter flows. Gravel will only encroach into the wetted river channel approximately 25 feet, with the majority being retained above the water surface.

Other permits obtained for the project include a NOAA Fisheries Section 7 consultation, Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit number 27, and a California Regional Water Quality Control Board Section 401 Permit.

Preparer:

  
Fishery Biologist

June 11, 2010  
Date

Concurrence with Item 7:

See Attached  
Regional Archeologist

Date

Concurrence with Item 10 and 11:

See Attached  
ITA Designee

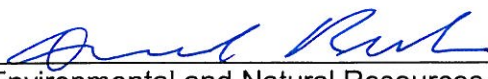
Date

Concurrence:

  
Northern California Area NEPA Coordinator

6/11/2010  
Date

Concurrence:

  
Environmental and Natural Resources  
Division Chief

6-11-10  
Date

Approval:

  
Northern California Area Manager

6/16/20  
Date



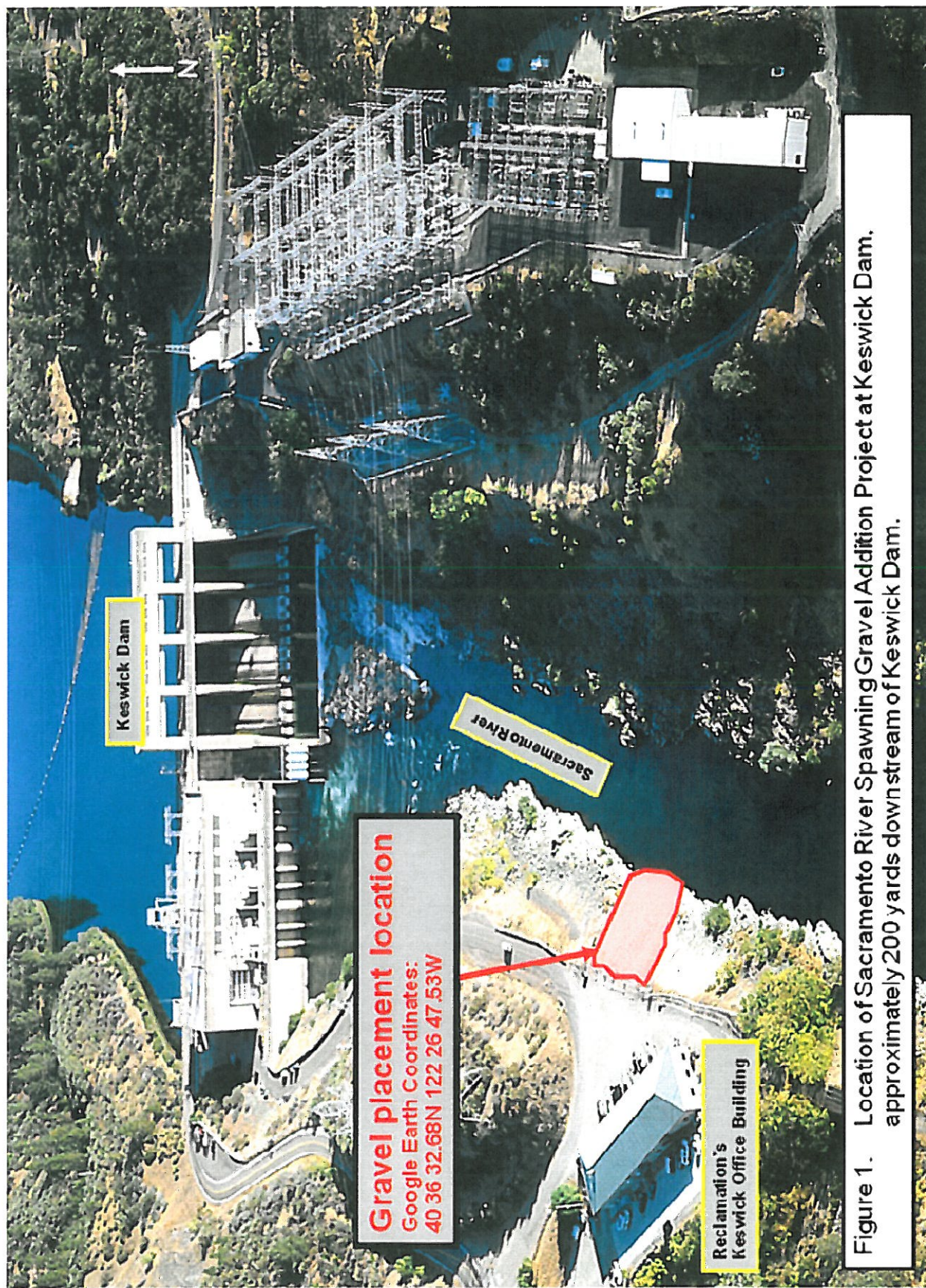


Figure 1. Location of Sacramento River Spawning Gravel Addition Project at Keswick Dam, approximately 200 yards downstream of Keswick Dam.





Figure 2. Project photographs of the Sacramento River Spawning Gravel Addition Project at Keswick Dam.

## Regional Archeologist Concurrence

>> Jim West 01/16/04 01:54PM >>>

The proposed gravel injection will have no effect on historic properties. A records check of our files indicates that there are no previously recorded archeological sites in the Area of Potential Effect.

No Indian Trust Assets will be affected.

Exclusion category: 516 DM 9.C.3

Please place a copy of this concurrence with the CEC.

(Thanks for including the excellent air photos with the locations mapped.)

G. James West  
Regional Archeologist  
Bureau of Reclamation- Mid Pacific Region  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
(916) 978-5041  
FAX (916) 978-5055

**From:** James DeStaso  
**To:** West, Jim  
**Date:** 1/16/2004 11:43 AM  
**Subject:** CEC - Archeological Review  
**CC:** Welch, Patrick

Hi Jim,

When you have a minute could you please review this CEC for two gravel injection projects along the Sacramento River near Redding.

Each of the two projects have been implemented multiple times in the past and have received your archeological/ITA concurrence. We've been using your approval(s) from several years ago, so I figure I'd get a more recent one from you to stay transparent (plus I think Mike Ryan or Buford suggested getting a recent concurrence for this year's projects).

Thanks for your help and hope all is going well for you.

Jim

-----  
Jim De Staso  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Northern California Area Office  
16349 Shasta Dam Blvd.  
Shasta Lake, CA 96019  
Phone: 530-276-2046 Fax: 530-275-2441  
Email: [jdestaso@mp.usbr.gov](mailto:jdestaso@mp.usbr.gov)  
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## ITA Concurrence

**From:** Frank Perniciaro  
**To:** DeStaso, James  
**Date:** 27-Jan-2005 3:33:47 PM  
**Subject:** Re: ITA Review - Sacramento River Gravel

Hi Jim,

You're good to go on ITAs -- thanks for the chance to review.

**FINDING:** This Reclamation project is being implemented under Section 3406 (b)(13) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. The project calls for spawning gravel additions to the upper Sacramento River to mitigate for negative impacts to anadromous fish habitat resulting from the construction Shasta and Keswick Dams. This action does not affect Indian trust assets and therefore I concur with the finding in Item 10 of the CVPIA Sacramento River Spawning Gravel Addition Project at Keswick Dam and Salt Creek CEC, by NCAO, dated January 26, 2005.

**NATURE OF ACTION:** The proposed project is being conducted under Section 3406 (b)(13) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. This Section mandates spawning gravel additions to the upper Sacramento River to mitigate for negative impacts to anadromous fish habitat resulting from the construction Shasta and Keswick Dams. The project will place approximately 8000 tons of spawning gravel in the Sacramento River at two locations: 1) 4000 tons placed at the Keswick Dam injection site; and 2) 4000 tons placed at the Salt Creek site.

The proposed project will improve both the quantity and quality of spawning habitat for anadromous fish. No direct or indirect adverse impacts to the environment are expected. This project has been implemented five times over the past seven years, and this year's injection will be identical to all previous years.

At the Salt Creek site, gravel will be placed onto the riverbank and a rubber-tired front-end loader will push gravel into the river forming a fan shaped raised terrace above the water line. The terrace will not exceed one-half the width of the wetted channel. No equipment will enter the wetted river channel. At the Keswick Dam site, gravel will be end-dumped from a 100-foot high terrace. Injected gravel will remain on the terrace until mobilized by high winter flows. Gravel will only encroach into the wetted river channel approximately 25 feet, with the majority being retained above the water surface.

Other permits being obtained for the project include: NOAA Fisheries Section 7 consultation, Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit number 27, City of Redding Encroachment Permit, Regional Water Quality Control Board Section 401 Permit, State Lands Commission Use Permit; and right-of-way permission from a private landowners.

**LOCATION:** 1 mile downstream of Keswick Dam and at the entry point of Salt Creek into the Sacramento River. Salt Creek site is 40° 35' 42.94" N, 122° 26' 10.71" W, and the Keswick Dam site is 40° 36' 00.95" N, 122° 26' 42.58" W.

**SCHEDULE:** The action is planned between August 29, 2005 and September 30, 2005.

**PROJECT PROPONENT:** Bureau of Reclamation

**INDIAN TRUST ASSET ANALYSIS:** The proposed action will place approximately 8000 tons of spawning gravel into the Sacramento River, 4000 tons placed at the Salt Creek site, under the provisions of Section 3406 (b)(13) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. There are no foreseeable impacts to ITAs as a result of this action. There are no ITAs in the project areas. No downstream tribes have federally reserved fishing rights on the Sacramento River, however, even if this was the case, the project is a benefit to anadromous fish. I concur with the finding in Item 10 of the CEC for the CVPIA Sacramento River Spawning Gravel Addition Project at Keswick Dam and Salt Creek, developed by NCAO, dated January 26, 2005. The



nearest Indian trust assets (held in trust for the Redding Rancheria) are located approximately 8 air miles south of the proposed action.

**DEFINITION of INDIAN TRUST ASSETS:** The United States has a trust responsibility to protect and maintain rights reserved by, or granted to, federally recognized tribes and individual Indians, by treaties, statutes, and executive orders. These rights are sometimes further interpreted through court decisions and regulations. The trust responsibility requires that all federal agencies, including Reclamation, take all actions reasonably necessary to protect Indian trust assets (Reclamation 1994).

Indian Trust Assets are legal interests in property held in trust by the federal government for federally recognized Indian tribes or individual Indians. "Assets" are anything owned that has monetary value. "Legal interest" means there is a property interest for which there is a legal remedy, such as compensation or injunction, if there is improper interference. Indian trust assets do not include things in which a tribe or individual Indians have no legal interest (Reclamation 1994).

Indian Trust Assets can be real property, physical assets or intangible property rights, such as a lease, or a right to use something. Indian Trust Assets cannot be sold, leased, or otherwise alienated without United States' approval. While most Indian trust assets are located on-reservation, they can also be located off-reservation. Examples of things that can be Indian Trust Assets are land, minerals, hunting and fishing rights, water rights, and instream flows. Off-reservation cultural resources located on non-trust land, are usually not Indian trust assets (Reclamation 1994).

Frank Perniciaro  
Native American Affairs Program Manager  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Mid-Pacific Region  
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fperniciaro@mp.usbr.gov

>>> James DeStaso 1/26/2005 1:46:58 PM >>>  
Hi Frank,

I wanted to get an ITA review from you for the work described in the attached CEC. In a nutshell, Reclamation expects to place clean spawning gravel into the Sacramento River at two locations, Keswick Dam and Salt Creek. Both of these sites have received gravel additions multiple times over the past eight years. The Keswick Site injects gravel immediately at the Keswick Office Building parking lot. The Salt Creek Site, about one mile downstream from Keswick Dam, uses already existing roads to access the site. The only disturbance at either location will be vehicular/truck traffic; the landscape will not be disturbed except for tire tracks.

Thanks for your help and if you have any questions please give me a call.

Cheers,  
Jim

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Jim De Staso  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
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16349 Shasta Dam Blvd.  
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Phone: 530-276-2046  
Fax: 530-275-2441  
Email: [jdestaso@mp.usbr.gov](mailto:jdestaso@mp.usbr.gov)  
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## National Marine Fisheries Service Not Likely To Adversely Affect Concurrence



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southwest Region  
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200  
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

JAN 21 2010  
2010

In response refer to  
2009/06454

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BUREAU OF RECLAMATION		
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Mr. James De Staso III  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Northern California Area Office  
16349 Shasta Dam Boulevard  
Shasta Lake, California 96019-8400

Dear Mr. De Staso:

This letter is in response to your letter of October 27, 2009, requesting NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) concurrence that the proposed Keswick Dam Spawning Gravel Injection project on the Sacramento River near Redding, California, is not likely to adversely affect Federally listed endangered winter-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), threatened spring-run Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), threatened Central Valley steelhead (*O. mykiss*), threatened Southern Distinct Population Segment of North American green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*), or any of their respective designated critical habitats.

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) plans on placing approximately 5,500 tons of clean spawning gravel into the Sacramento River just below Keswick Dam between August 23 and September 10, 2010. The objective of the proposed project is to restore salmonid spawning habitat lost as a result of the construction of Shasta Dam. Spawning gravel has been added to the Keswick Dam site seven times since 1997. Past injections have been successfully mobilized by high river flows and deposited downstream to form active spawning riffles. Past monitoring has shown that gravel augmentation has been transported downstream and utilized for spawning by winter-run Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead.

Gravel will be dumped from a 100-foot-high cliff. Injected gravel will remain on the cliff until mobilized by high winter flows. Gravel will only encroach into the wetted river channel approximately 25 feet, with the vast majority being retained above the water surface. Gravel will be collected from deposits that are outside active stream channels which would not have naturally contributed to the river and will be of a size and shape considered to be optimal for successful salmonid spawning.

W

END-7.00  
GP  
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The following measures designed to minimize adverse impacts to the riverine ecosystem have been incorporated into the proposed project work plan:

1. The fall time frame was selected in coordination with NMFS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game as the period of lowest potential impacts to salmonids. It allows the addition of materials at the tail end of winter-run fry emergence and the beginning of fall-run adult spawning in the area.
2. The project location is in an area of the Sacramento River that has a bedrock streambed, therefore no redds would be present or impacted.
3. The gravel will be washed at least once and have a cleanliness value of 85 or higher, based on Caltrans Test #227, to minimize the introduction of fine sediments into the river. Gravel will also be completely free of oils, clay, debris, and organic material.
4. Gravel used in this project will be uncrushed, rounded "natural river rock" with no sharp edges. Gravel will have the following size requirements: 95-100 percent passing through a 5-inch sieve; 75-85 percent passing through a 2-inch sieve; 40-50 percent passing through a 1-inch sieve; 25-35 percent passing through a ¾-inch sieve; 10-20 percent passing through a ½-inch sieve; and 0-5 percent passing through a ¼-inch sieve.

#### ESA Section 7 Consultation

Based on our review of the proposed project and the best scientific and commercial information currently available, and provided that the above-listed conservation measures are strictly adhered to, NMFS concurs with your determination that the proposed Keswick Dam Gravel Injection project is not likely to adversely affect listed anadromous fish or any of their designated critical habitat. The potential for adverse effects is discountable and not expected to reach the level where take will occur for the following reasons: (1) the time frame avoids juvenile Chinook and steelhead incubation and emergence as well as the sturgeon spring spawning period; (2) the use of in-river flows rather than heavy equipment in order to slowly distribute gravels downstream thereby allowing juveniles and adults sufficient opportunity to avoid any disturbance around the injection site; (3) the use of washed gravel to avoid turbidity and sediments entering the river; and (4) the use of rounded river rock of the size preferred by spawning salmonids. Designated critical habitat in the action area, including the riparian areas along the bank, would not be adversely impacted since the same injection site as previous years is being used (*i.e.*, the project site is devoid of any vegetation at the end of the road).

This concludes informal consultation for the proposed project. Reinitiation of consultation is required where discretionary Federal agency involvement or control over the action has been retained (or is authorized by law) and if: (1) new information reveals effects of the action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; (2) the action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the listed species or critical habitat not considered; or (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the action.




Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Consultation (FWCA)

The action area has been identified as Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for all races of Central Valley Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) including the fall/late fall-run in Amendment 14 of the Pacific Salmon Fishery Management Plan pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). Federal action agencies are mandated by the MSA (Section 305[b][2]) to consult with NMFS on all actions that may adversely affect EFH, and NMFS must provide EFH conservation recommendations back to those agencies (Section 305[b][4][A]). Because the proposed action includes conservation measures designed to avoid impacts to salmonid habitat, and is in fact designed to enhance and increase spawning habitat in the Sacramento River, NMFS concurs with Reclamation that the proposed action would not adversely affect EFH. Therefore, additional EFH Conservation Recommendations are not being provided at this time; however, if there are substantial revisions to the proposed project, the lead Federal agency will need to reinitiate EFH consultation.

The purpose of the FWCA is to ensure that wildlife conservation receives equal consideration, and is coordinated with other aspects of water resources development [16 U.S.C. 661]. The FWCA establishes a consultation requirement for Federal departments and agencies that undertake any action that proposes to modify any stream or other body of water for any purpose, including navigation and drainage [16 U.S.C 662(a)]. The FWCA provides the opportunity to offer recommendations for the conservation of species and habitats beyond those currently managed under the ESA and MSA. Because the proposed project is designed to minimize impacts to aquatic habitats and to improve spawning habitat conditions for aquatic species, NMFS has no additional FWCA comments to provide.

Please contact Ms. Naseem Alston at (916) 930-3655, or via e-mail at [naseem.alston@noaa.gov](mailto:naseem.alston@noaa.gov), if you have any questions concerning this correspondence or require additional information.

Sincerely,

  
Rodney R. McInnis  
Regional Administrator

cc: Copy to file - AR# 151422SWR2006SA00076  
NMFS-PRD, Long Beach, CA  
Bryant Chesney, Long Beach, California  
Mr. Jim Smith, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 10950 Tyler Road, Red Bluff, CA 96080  
Ms. Tricia Bratcher, California Department of Fish and Game, 601 Locust St., Redding, CA 96001